THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE.

$1.50 per Year, invariably in Advance. Principles, not Men; but Men as the Representatives of Principles. Single Copies, Five Cents

VOL. VIII. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 1883. NO. 16.

A HOUSEKEEPER'S TRAGEDY.

One day as I wandered I heard a complaining.
And saw a poor woman, the picture of gloom.
She glared at the mud on the door-step ('twas raining)
And this was her wail as she wielded the broom:

"Oh! life is a toil and love is a trouble,
And beauty will fade and riches will flee,
And pleasures they dwindle and prices they double,
And nothing is what I could wish it to be.

"There's too much of worriment goes to a bonnet,
There's too much of ironing goes to a shirt,
There's nothing that pays for the time wasted on it
There's nothing that lasts, but trouble and dirt.'

"In March it is mud, it's slush in December,
And midsummer's breezes are laden with dust,
In fall the leaves litter, in muggy September
The wall-paper rots and the flat-irons rust."

"There are worms in the cherries, and slugs in the roses,
And ants in the sugar, and mice in the pies,
The rubbish or spiders, no mortal supposes,
And ravaging roaches and damaging flies,"

"It's sweeping at six and dusting at seven,
It's victuals at eight and dishes at nine,
It's potting and panning from ten to eleven,
We scarce break our fast ere we plan how to dine."

"With grease and with litter from outside to center
Forever at war and forever alert,
No rest for a day lest the enemy enter,
I spend my whole time in a struggle with dirt."

"Last night in my dreams, I was stationed forever
On a bare little isle in the midst of the sea,
My one chance of life was a ceaseless endeavor
To sweep off the waves, ere they swept over me."

"Alas! 'twas no dream—again I behold it,
I yield, I am helpless my fate to avert;"
She rolled down her sleeves, her apron she folded,
Then laid down and died, and was buried in dirt.

A LIVING HONEY-COMB.

THE HONEY-BEARING ANT OF NEW MEXICO.—A PERAMBULATING SWEETMEAT.

Much as has been written about the marvels of instinct, there are still discoveries of great interest to be made in this prolific field. Particularly in the domain of those insect Yankees, the ants, with their wonderful ingenuity and human-like manners and customs, there is room for extended observations.

Some lately-discovered facts in relation to them are so curious and interesting that it may be advisable to give them greater publicity than they have yet obtained. Some of these facts have long been known to the world of science, but not to the public. Others are new discoveries. As a whole they form one of the most surprising chapters in the history of animal life and contrivance.

Varied as are the social habits of the ants, it is generally considered that social bees surpass them in one particular, namely, their mode of storing supplies of winter food, the store-houses of ant-food having no contrivance similar in ingenuity to the honey-comb, with its rich supply of the sweets of life.

But the truth is that certain tribes of ants are well aware of the value of nature's sweetmeats as articles of food, and have developed a mode of storing up their winter honey still more curious than that practiced by the bees.

They possess, in fact, what may be called living honey-combs; perambulatory cells filled with distilled sweetness. We refer to the honey-bearing ants of New Mexico, concerning which some very interesting facts have been brought to light.

The Rev. Dr. McCook, Philadelphia, a noted observer of ants ant-life, has been interviewing these honey-bearers, and his results differ so widely from the ordinary facts of insect instinct that they cannot but prove of general interest. These ants had been previously known only in New Mexico, but he discovered them in Colorado, inhabiting the locality known as the "Garden of the Gods," their nests being excavated in the stony crests of low ridges which run through this mountain-girt paradise.

The ridges are composed of a friable sandstone, into which our minute masons mine deeply, digging galleries which sometimes run for several feet into the rock. The nest, outwardly, is some ten inches in diameter by from two to three and a half inches in height, composed of sand and bits of stone carried from within, some of which seem large enough to defy a regiment of ants to move them.

Inside the nests successive chambers are excavated, connected by galleries, the floors of the chambers being comparatively smooth, while the ceilings are left in a rough state. But this roughness is no evidence of carelessness in the builder. It has, on the contrary, an important object: this is to furnish foothold for the clinging feet of certain extraordinary-looking creatures, which form the living honey-combs of which we have spoken.

Fancy an animal with the head and thorax of a small ant, but with all the posterior portion of the body converted into a round sac, of the size of a lage pea, and of a rich translucent amber hue—it being, in fact, distended into a reservoir of honey. This honey-bag is immense when compared with the size of the ant, the unchanged parts of which might pass for a black pin's head attached to the side of a marrow-fat pea. These odd-looking creatures cling to the roof of the chamber with their feet, the distended honey-bag hanging downward like an amber globe. On seeing them we instinctively imagine that their leg-muscles must be developed in a fashion to put to shame those of human athletes, since it is no light weight which they are thus forced to continuously support.

In each chamber of the nest about thirty honey-bearers are found, making some three hundred to complete the nest. Besides these there are hundreds or thousands of others, workers and soldiers, lords and queens, to whom the honey-bearers serve as store-houses of winter food.

Dr. McCook succeeded in bringing some of these home with him alive, providing them with nest-building materials, and with sugar for nutriment. He has one very interesting nest in a glass bottle, with its interior chamber well displayed. The roof of this is covered with depending globules of honey, so large as to almost conceal the minute clinging insect of which they really form a part.

But the marvelous feature of the case yet remains to be described. Not only is the abdomen of the ant converted into a receptacle for honey, but the whole internal economy of the body is transformed for this purpose. All the organs of the abdomen have quite disappeared: viscera, nerves, veins, arteries, have alike vanished; and there remains only a thin transparent skin, which is capable of great distention. It is thus in reality a honey-cell, and much stranger than that of the bee, the waxen walls of the latter being replaced in this case by the tissues of a living animal. The creature can afford to dispense with the abdominal organs, since its life-duties are so metamorphosed that it has henceforth to act as an animated sweetmeat.

Dr. McCook's observations enabled him to discover that the working ants, returning from their out-door foraging, with their bodies distended with the honey they have somewhere harvested, enter the chambers of the nest and eject this sweet fluid from their own mouths into the mouths of the honey-bearers, whose bodies become greatly distended with the delicious food. In other cases he perceived hungry ants seeking for a meal from the food thus generously stored up. The honey-bearer seemed to slightly contract the muscles of the abdominal skin, forcing from its mouth minute globules of honey; these clung to the hairs of the under lip, and were eagerly lapped up by the hungry ants waiting to be fed. It is probable, however, that these supplies are principally intended as winter stores for the workers, for the feeding of larvæ, and for the dinner-table of the queen, who is, as usual, too proud or too dignified to do her own foraging.

The working ants take great care of their helpless honey-bearers. When one, through some convulsion of nature—occasioned perhaps by the tap of a gigantic human finger—looses its hold and drops to the floor of its chamber, it is at once picked up by a worker and carried back to its old foothold on the roof of the apartment. How this minute creature can drag up a perpendicular wall a mass twenty times its own size and weight is only less surprising than it would be to see an adroit climber of the human race ascending the face of a precipice and pulling after him a ton weight.

With regard to the source of honey, these ants are not known to feast on flowers, like bees and some of our home ants, nor could any evidence be found of the *Aphis*, or ant-cow, which many of our ants milk for its honey.

The honey-gatherer is difficult to observe. It is a nocturnal ant, keeping out of sight of the sun during the day, and only venturing forth at nightfall in search of food. Dr. McCook observed them, in the summer twilight, marching outward from the nest in long columns, and pursuing night after night the same paths. He watched them for a considerable time before he succeeded in finding the goal of these nightly expeditions. At length discovering some ants on the twigs of a species of scrub-oak, which grew abundantly at the foot of the ridge, he observed that they showed a marked preference for certain small oak-galls which were ranged along the sides of the twigs.

The next thing to be done was to examine these galls. We are accustomed to associate galls with the idea of bitterness only, yet they proved to be the true honey-yielders. On the round, green masses, minute drops of a sweet juice were found; this the ants eagerly licked up, passing from gall to gall until fully laden, or returning to the original gall at a later hour when fresh sweetness had exuded from it.

The gall-nut, it is well known, is an excrescence upon the leaves of a species of oak; it is produced by the puncture of a small hymenopterous insect for the purpose of depositing its eggs. A minute grub lies in the center of the soft mass which composes the gall. Whether the sweet juice came from this grub, or from the sap of the tree, was not readily to be discovered, though it was most likely an exudation of the sap.

All night the busy gatherers of sweets were occupied in collecting honey from the galls. Toward morning they were seen in great numbers returning to the nest, their bodies swollen with the night's harvest of honey, which, as we have said, is given to the living honey-combs within, being forced from the bodies of the workers and into the mouths of the honey-bearers, until by the time the season is over, they present remarkable distention.

This is about all that is known at present concerning the habits of these strange ants. They very likely have other sources of honey at other seasons; but the most interesting fact is the surprising mode of storage of this sweet food.

In New Mexico the inhabitants put these ants to a very peculiar use, supplementing their dinners with a plateful of honey-ants for desert. The overladen insects wait in enforced patience while the preceding courses of the dinner are being eaten. The mode of partaking of this strange dessert is to pick up an ant, nip the honey-bag with the teeth, forcing its sweet contents into the mouth, while the remainder is thrown away. We are told that this is not so disagreeable a habit as it might at first seem, the skin surrounding the honey being reduced to a thin, transparent membrane, with nothing necessarily unpleasant in its character. Nevertheless, most of us will prefer to continue indebted to the bee for our supply of honey, leaving the ants to enjoy the fruits of their own labors.—*Journal of Science.*

A Test of Indian Courage.

An Indian inter-tribal fair was held, not long ago, in order to show some of the results of civilizing the savages. A number of tribes attended and displayed articles of home manufacture, such as needle-work, embroidery, lace work and blankets. Many of the Indians had their pictures taken, and showed a childish delight in looking at their faces. Others, however, could not be persuaded to go near the camera. Yellow Bear, of the Arapahoes, was the first to pass through the ordeal of a sitting. He suffered himself to be properly seated, and then the camera to be brought to bear upon him; but when the prepared plate was placed in the box, and the cloth lifted, he leaped to his feet at a bound, and attempted to leave the tent. All attempts to reason with him failed. At last a photograph of a Cheyenne, taken some years ago, was shown him. He looked at it a moment then went quietly back to his chair, and sat there like a statue while the negative was taken. He explained that no Cheyenne warrior was a greater brave than he. The gigantic Osages on the other hand, would not approach the tent. They say the camera robs them of their good spirits. The Kickapoos gave the very same reason, and the photographer was peremptorily ordered out of the country on that account. The Indian is a profound believer in the power of spirits for good or evil, and takes care never to offend them.

How a Married Woman Goes to Sleep.

There is an article going the rounds entitled: "How the Girls Go to Sleep." The manner in which they go to sleep, according to the article, can't hold a candle to the way a married woman goes to sleep.

Instead of thinking what she should have attended to before going to bed, she thinks of it afterward. While she is revolving these matters in her mind, and while snugly tucked up in bed, the old man is scratching his legs in front of the fire, and wondering how he will pay the next month's rent. Suddenly she says:

"James, did you lock the door?"

"Which door?" says James.

"The cellar door," says she.

"No," says James.

"Well, you better go down and lock it, for I heard some person in the back yard last night."

Accordingly, James paddles down stairs and locks the door. About the time James returns and is going to get into bed, she remarks:

"Did you shut the stair door hard?"

"No," says James.

"Well, if it is not shut, the cat will get up into the bedroom."

"Let her come up, then," says James, illnaturedly.

"My goodness, no," returns his wife. "She'd suck the baby's breath."

Then James paddles down stairs again, and steps on a tack, and closes the stair door, and curses the cat, and returns to the bed-room. Just as he begins to climb into his couch his wife observes:

"I forgot to bring up some water. Suppose you bring some up in the big tin."

And so James, with a muttered curse, goes down into the dark kitchen and falls over a chair, and rasps all the tinware off the wall in search of the "big" tin, and then jerks the stair-door open and howls:

"Where the duce are the matches?"

She gives him minute directions where to find the matches, and adds that she would rather go and get the water herself than have the neighborhood raised about it. After which James finds the matches, procures the water, comes up-stairs and plunges into bed.

Presently his wife says:

"James, let's have an understanding about money matters. Now, next week I've got to pay——"

"I don't know what you'll have to pay, and don't care," shouts James, as he lurches around and jams his face against the wall; "all I want is sleep."

"That's all very well for you," snaps his wife, as she pulls the covers viciously; "you never think of the worry and trouble I have. And there's Araminta, who I believe is taking the measles."

"Let her take 'em," says James.

Hereupon she begins to cry softly, but about the time James is falling into a gentle doze she punches him in the ribs with her elbow and says:

"Did you hear that scandal about Mrs. Jones?"

"What Jones?" says James sleepily.

"Why, Mrs. Jones."

"Where?" inquired James.

"I declare," say his wife, "you are getting more stupid every day. You know Mrs. Jones that lives at No. 21? Well, day before yesterday, Susan Smith told Mrs. Thompson that Sam Baker has said that Mrs. Jones had——"

Here she pauses and listens. James is snoring in profound slumber. With a snort of rage she pulls all the cover off him, wraps herself up in them and lays awake until 2 a. m., thinking how badly used she is.

And that is the way a married woman goes to sleep.—*Pittsburg Leader.*

Cultivate More Turnips.

We all know the value of the turnip crop to England. It has been asserted that the interest of their immense debt is annually paid by the product of this crop. As to the United States, we do not make half the use of the turnip we might do, by increasing the consumption of the root and improvement in the manner of its cultivation. The great want of our winter feed for cattle is succulence. We somewhat obviate this want by using cut feed moistened, but as a general thing hay and oats and corn and water form the bulk of cattle food. Carrots, potatoes, rutabagas and turnips are used at times, but to a very limited extent to what they might be.

One reason for this limited use may be in our old enemy, dear labor. In the culture of the carrot, for instance, there is a great amount of hand-work. As soon as the seeds are up, the plants must be thinned; and after every hoe-harrowing between the rows, hands must go over again to keep the rank weeds from smothering out the carrot plants. Carrots are excellent horse-feed; but few of us have this hand-labor to spare. It is so much easier to hoe corn in the hills both ways; although we know how nice it is to have carrots with corn, corn alone has to do the work.

Here is the same trouble with the turnip, though in a less degree to be sure. Every single turnip has to be handled in pulling; and then, after pulling, every one has to be gone over again and handled to take the tops off. If we could manage to do this by machinery, as we do so many other things, so as to get rid of this hand-labor business, no doubt the production would soon be doubled, and use be found for an immense number more than is dreamed of. This may come in time, for Yankee genius is equal to achievment in this direction.

Absinthe.

The French drink Absinthe is imported extensively in this country. A New York paper describes its effects in this way. "It is much more perilous, as well as deleterious, than any ordinary liquor. Its encroachments are scarcely perceptible. A regular absinthe drinker seldom perceives that he is dominated by its baleful influence until it is too late. All of a sudden he breaks down; his nervous system is destroyed; his brain is inoperative; his will is paralyzed; *he is a mere wreck; there is no hope of his recovery.* Victims of intemperance of the common sort frequently reform; but the absinthe drinker, after he has gone to a certain length, very rarely does or can throw off the fatal fascination. The more intellectual a man is the more readily the habit fastens itself upon him."

This beats sod corn whisky which is warranted to kill at eighty rods; but if men are going to destroy themselves by intemperance the quickest way is the best.

Sea-Dust.

People laughed at the man who said that the fish he had hooked "kicked up such a *dust in the water.*" Perhaps they will laugh at the heading to this article; but there will still be "sea-dust," nevertheless.

We have heard of water-spouts, of showers of fish, of salt rain, and many other curiosities which present themselves in the atmosphere, but to assert that there is such a thing as sea-dust is to transcend all reasonable bounds. The evidence, however, in favor of its existence is exceedingly powerful—indisputable, in fact—and this is the story told by eye-witnesses. They say that in certain parts of the world, notably about the Cape de Verde Islands, there are constantly met at sea, several hundred miles away from land, thick, yellowish-red fogs, not unlike London fogs in November. These fogs obscure the atmosphere, and are very injurious to navigation, but they have not the baleful odor of their London prototypes, nor do they affect the breathing in the same way. Whilst sailing through them it is found that the ship, sails and rigging are covered with a fine, impalpable powder, which falls as dry rain, and covers the surface on which it falls sometimes to the depth of two inches. In color, it is of a brick-dust hue, sometimes of a light yellow, and it feels between the teeth like fine grit, such as might be blown into the mouth on a windy day in March. No place is free from its presence, its fineness giving it power to penetrate everywhere. The sea, while the dust is falling, looks as if it had been peppered, and is discolored for some distance down. Sometimes the dust comes in a shower, and passes off again. The fogs are nothing but vast quantities of the dust suspended in the air.

It is not only in the vicinity of the Cape de Verde that this wonderful dust is seen. In the Mediterranean, on the northern parts of Africa, in the middle of the Atlantic, it has been reported. It is invariably the same in kind and appearance, and examination under microscopes was proved the identity of said Cape de Verde sea-dust with Mediterranean sea-dust. All this is very remarkable; dust falling in clouds, no land within some hundred of miles, nothing visible which could possibly account for the curious phenomenon. Sand-spouts there are in sandy deserts, and showers of sand taken originally from spots whereon the carrier wind has left its mark; but here there is no desert from which the sand can be rapt, and the wind, so far from being boisterous, or disposed to play whirlwind pranks, is light and steady, blowing ships along at a calm five knots an hour.

In connection with these facts, hear what Humboldt says of the sight he saw in the dry river beds and sandy valleys of Central America: "When beneath the vertical rays of the bright and cloudless sun of the tropics, the parched sward crumbles into dust, then the inlurated soil cracks and bursts, as if rent asunder by some mighty earthquake; and if at such a time opposite currents of air, by conflict moving in rapid gyrations, come in contact with the earth, a singular spectacle presents itself. Like funnel-shaped clouds, their apexes touching the earth, the sands rise in vapory form through the rarefied air in the electrically charged centre of the whirling current, sweeping on like the rushing water-spouts which strike such terror into the hearts of the mariner. A dim and sallow light gleams from the lowering sky over the dreary plain. The horizon suddenly contracts, and the heart of the traveler sinks with dismay as the wide steppe seems to close upon him on all sides. The hot and dusty earth forms a cloudy veil which shrouds the heavens from view, and increases the stifling oppression of the atmosphere."

It is believed by scientific men that these dust-clouds of Central America are, in all probability, closely connected with the phenomenon of sea-dust.

Maine's Liquor Law.

Maine has at length got a liquor law to evade which will require the utmost ingenuity of the wine sellers and the wine bibbers. Thus far a loophole of some sort has always been found in the statutes framed on the subject. The interested classes have jumped through them as easy as an accomplished circus rider takes a flying leap through a paper hoop. When the ordinary liquor saloon was compelled to put up its shutters, the private club came into existence, and when payment for liquor was prohibited, the dispenser of the beverage found a way of giving it away and at the same time reaping the usual profit. Under the new law, if the sober solons of the state are not very much mistaken, all these tricks and evasions will come to naught. Club houses and all other similar contrivances are to be declared nuisances and suppressed upon sight. Giving liquor away is to be remorselessly punished. A person found intoxicated, either on the streets or in his own house, shall be sent to jail for thirty days; if he undertakes to do the thing a second time he will be given a vacation and an opportunity to reform for a term three times as long. Maine seems to be in earnest this time.

In 1743 there was quite an anti-tea agitation in Scotland, where it was pronounced by the famous Duncan Forbes to be "in many respects an improper diet, expensive, wasteful of time, and calculated to render the people weakly effeminate." During that time there was a vigorous movement all over Scotland for abolishing the use of tea. Resolutions were passed by town councils and the inhabitants of villages condemning it and advocating beer. Sir William Fullerton's tenants in Ayrshire entered into the following bond: "We, being all farmers by profession, think it needless to restrain ourselves formally from indulging in that foreign and consumptive luxury called tea; for when we consider the slender constitutions of many of higher rank among whom it is used, we conclude that it would be but an improper diet to qualify us for the more robust and manly part of our business; and therefore we shall only give our testimony against it, and leave the enjoyment of it altogether to those who can afford to be weak, indigent and useless."

Boys' Smoking.

ITS EFFECT UPON THEM AS ASCERTAINED BY LEADING PHYSICIANS.

When boys are advised not to smoke on hygienic grounds they laugh at the advice, and speak of its givers as old fogies. But careful experiments, lately made by a physician of repute, prove that the practice is very injurious. He took for his purpose thirty-eight boys, from 9 to 15, who had been in the habit of smoking, and examined them closely. In twenty-seven he found obvious hurtful effects; twenty-two having various disorders of the circulation and digestion, palpitation of the heart, and more or less craving for strong drink; twelve of the boys were frequently troubled with bleeding at the nose; ten had disturbed sleep; twelve had slight ulceration of the mucous membrane of the mouth, which disappeared after discontinuation of tobacco for ten or twelve days. The physician treated them all for weakness and nervousness, though with little avail, until they had relinquished smoking, when health and strength were speedily restored. Even if it be granted that smoking is not harmful to adults, there is no doubt of its harmfulness to the young. Dr. Ranking, Dr. Richardson, and others, who have made a special study of the subject, all agree in declaring that it causes in them impairment of growth, premature virility, and physical degradation. One of the worst effects is the provocation of an appetite for liquor, which, indeed, is not confined to the young, but which grown persons are better able to manage. Where boys drink to excess, they are almost invariably smokers, and it is very rare to find a man overfond of spirits who is not addicted to tobacco. Men who want to give up drinking usually have to give up smoking at the same time; for they say that a cigar or a pipe generally excites a desire for liquor very hard to control.

A Ragpicker's Lair.

After groping along some forty feet, writes a correspondent of the *Hartford Times*, I found myself in a small yard walled up on all sides by the backs of other houses, each trying to outdo the other in degrees of uncouth dilapidation and squalid poverty. The light of day scarcely got in here, because from every window looking into this yard ropes were stretched to some other window, and along them were hung rags of every color and description, in every stage of decay. The yard was occupied by a dozen Italian ragpickers, who started at my appearance and then went on sullenly with their work. Heaps of rags were everywhere, under foot and overhead. Rag picking and cleaning is the principal business of Mulberry street. The very atmosphere is impregnated with rags. A very little of it was enough, and I stumbled up some rickety stairs to see what the rooms were like; the only one I had strength of mind and of nose to venture into will have to serve as a specimen of all. I pushed open the first door I came to, and found a woman cooking something over a fire. The room looked out on the yard below. This woman did not seem to mind my intrusion; she went on with her work. I learned afterwards that the ragpickers are so used to the inspection visits of health officers looking for small-pox cases, and of policemen looking for criminals, that they never make any objection. The room that I got into cannot have been more than twenty feet square, and yet by means of rough wooden bunks built one over the other, like on shipboard, some twenty men made this their home. Every bunk was filled with rags, which constituted the main furniture; there was also a stove, a chair, some tubs and some tin pans. The smell, untenanted as the room was then, was atrocious. What it must be on a hot night with twenty occupants must be left to the reader's imagination. I got out again as soon as I could and made my way toward the front of the building, almost walking over the children who swarmed and played in the puddles on the ground. These poor little ones are the offspring of drunken, besotted parents. Dickens used to say that the poor children of London were not brought up, but dragged up. I might truthfully say that these children are not dragged up, but kicked up.

Waste Not, Want Not.

"Hans, what keepit you owat so late tonight?" "Well, Katrina, I vas at dot teeyayder. I med Yon Biber, und we hat some beer mit each one anoder both togedder, unt Yon says: 'Hans, I vaunts you to come in my teeyayder und see Lew Raddler und dem fellers sing a liddle song.' Veary well, I goes in mid him, und it don't cost me something at all—he yoost tole dot toorkeeper 'Das all righd,' und I bass in. I vas a hed-dead, like dose noospaper fellers." "Well, Hans, how was you like it?" "Like it! It was schkeplendit, Katrina, Dere vas de pootiest song you nefer heard in all my life. It begins down un de boddom like dis way:

You nefer miss dot vasser dill dot well don't got some more in it.

It's a fine sendiment in dot song, Katrina, I got it all in my head, but I vas so pleased und excited about it I haf forgot it again once. It was like dis way [sings:]

Don'd you waste dot vasser;
Vas de moddo I teach you,
Let your watchwords be dispatches,
Und practice like dem preachers.
Do not let a few moments
Like dot sunshine pass by,
For you nefer miss dot vasser
Until you ge' pooty dry sometimes
when dot well is all run oud!

Now, Katrina, don'd you like dot sendiment?" "Yes, I like dot sendiment, and I like it bedder if you don'd shtop oud till twelf o'clock at nighd like dis anymore, und come home tryin' to play me off dot foolishness."

HOW TO WATER HORSES.—In very cold weather give one pailful at a time three times a day. This is enough unless you are working them regularly; then give a little more, but not to exceed four pailfuls a day. In warm weather when they are brought in, first sponge out the mouth and nostrils well with cold water. After a few spongings they will wait for it to be done. Then give them not to exceed one pailful apiece, and another after feeding, before commencing work. Don't let them go without long enough to make them want more than this. If allowed, a thirsty horse will drink too much when warm. A common 12-quart pail is here referred to.

Forfeits for Fun.

In evening games it often becomes necessary to punish some one or more of the company by imposing a "forfeit." The penance should be something that either is not easy to follow out to the letter—that is, has some catch in it—or puts the person in a conspicuous and amusing light. In all cases a forfeit should be designed to amuse the company as a whole, and never to offend the person called upon to pay it. In order to illustrate our idea of a good forfeit, and also to furnish suggestions to those who enjoy and take part in such pleasant amusements, we give a few of the forfeits that may be imposed: First, put a newspaper upon the floor in such a way that two persons can stand on it and not be able to touch each other with their hands. This forfeit has the honor of being old, but it was not our good fortune to meet it until a short time ago, and be forced to "give it up." By putting the paper in a doorway, one-half inside and the other half outside the room, and closing the door over it, the two persons can easily stand upon it and still be beyond each other's reach. Second, to go out of the room with two legs, and come in with six. Not difficult, if one thinks to bring a chair along on the return. Third, to act the dumb servant. The person who has the forfeits to pay must act out the answers to the questions put by the master of the ceremonies; as, How do you make bread? How do you eat soup? etc. This forfeit will cause much merriment if proper questions are put. Fourth, put one hand where the other one cannot touch it. One can get out of this difficulty by putting one hand on the elbow of the other arm. Fifth, place a pencil on the floor so that one cannot jump over it. May be done by putting it close to the wall of the room. Sixth, put a question that no can answer with "No! That is not hard if one thinks to ask, What does Y-e-s spell? Seventh, push a chair through a finger ring. This forfeit is made by putting the ring on the finger and pushing the chair—any other object will do as well—with the finger. This last much resembles the next. Eighth, put yourself through a key-hole. This was a great puzzle to us for a while; but when a piece of paper was taken with the word "yourself" written upon it, and pushed through the hole, it was all clear. There are many other of these amusing little tricks, but those given will suggest others, and help to make the social winter gatherings the enjoyable times they should be.

Tea-Tasters in New York.

There are, says Dr. Dane, probably more than 100 firms engaged in tea-tasting in this city. In all of their offices there are large tables with round revolving tops. A circle of tea-cups is placed along the edge of these. The tea-taster sits down before the display of crockery and tastes one cup after another, moving the table top around. In the center of the table is a pair of scales with a silver half-dime in one of the balances. One or two large kettles are kept constantly with boiling water in them. When a sample of tea is to be tasted, as much is weighed out as will balance the half-dime. This is put in a tea-cup and boiling water poured on. The tea-taster then stirs up the leaves, lifts them on his spoon and inhales the aroma. At the same time he generally takes a sip of the infusion, holds it in his mouth for a short time, and then spits it out. Enormous brass cuspidores, holding two or three gallons, receive the tea thus tasted and the contents of the cups that have been examined. On some occasions, when a large amount of tea of a certain kind is to be bought, many samples of this are brought in from different houses. The buyer and sellers sit around the revolving tables with the samples made into infusions in the cups before them. These are "tasted" all around, the "body," "fineness," "toastiness," etc., are learnedly discussed, and the poorer specimens discarded. Then those that are left are tested again and the number further reduced. So it goes on until the article which unites the desired quality and price is obtained.

An Afghan Woman's Shoes.

The slippers and shoes are of Cabulese make, and are very pretty. On a pale green background beautiful patters are worked with gold and silver thread and particolored silk, until the effect is more like that of a fairy's slipper than one for daily use. But a stout leather sole is put on, with high heels rudely bound with iron, and then the work of art is complete. The stalls in which their slippers and shoes are made are the gayest in the whole bazar. A Cabulese lady's foot is small, almost to deformity, and the baggy trousers by contrast make them appear exceedingly petite. From the few faces seen, and those chiefly of old or passee women, it is difficult to judge of the famed beauty Cabulese are said to boast of. The children are certainly, as a whole, the prettiest I have ever seen. Their complexions are red and white, with a tinge of olive pervading the skin, eyes black and lustrous, well-shaped features, teeth to make a western beauty envious, and bright, intelligent looks that sadly belie the race to which they belong. Their mothers must be beautiful, for their fathers are generally villainous-looking; the men losing all the pleasing traits which as boys they possessed. The lady I have described as seen in the zebanna for a moment was certainly handsome, and was far lighter in complexion than a Spaniard; her eyes were really worthy of the praises sung by Hafiz, but the sensuous lips were a little too full and pouting. It was just such a face as one imagines in a harem, and would be in keeping with the languorous life of a voluptuary to whom sensualty is a guiding-star. Such faces always lack character, and would soon prove insipid in the eyes of the west. The Cabulese lady, when journeying, is either carried in an elaborate wicker-work cage covered with the inevitable flowing linen, or rides Amazon fashion.

Eighteen hundred and seventy-nine produced no improvement in drawing teeth no consolation for the man who has to have his hair cut; no better method for breaking in new boots; no new way of beating a landlord out of a month's board and lodging; no way of getting along on a street car except to stand up, and no way of getting back small loans. Considered as a whole she was not anything extra of a year, not even for bad weather.

The People's Advocate

ESTABLISHED 1876.

C. A. LEMAR,

Business Manager and Financial Ag't

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT

609 A. AVE., WASHINGTON, D. C.

TERMS:

One copy, one year, if paid in advance..... $1.50
One copy one year if paid after three months $1.65
One copy, one year, if paid after six months. $1.75
One copy, one year paid at end of year..... $2.00
One copy six months..... $1.00
One copy three months..... .50

Entered at the Washington Post Office as second class matter.

Please send by postal order or registered letter.

Address, THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE Box 263, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Subscribers finding this paragraph marked will understand that their subscriptions have expired, and unless they promptly renew the paper will be discontinued to their address.

A DEAD LETTER,

The facility with which colored people adapt themselves to circumstances is a fact which has been referred to, in no uncomplamentary terms, by our white brother. New and varied conditions are taken on, with a modesty and completeness which is quite surprising and which evidences the possession of native tact. Our people have performed the functions of citizenship with no inconsiderable success; have been very solicitous, all along the line of our political existence, as to the securement of our rights and the formation of a public sentiment in their favor.

But the spirit of inquiry which has hitherto stimulated the colored people, is giving way to a sense of political and civil security, which may react with disastrous results upon their future; for notwithstanding the fact that the statute-books have been measureably stocked with provisions and enactments, looking to the establishment of our equality of citizenship, we have grave reasons to suppose that the most important of them all (the Civil Rights acts) fail, to find that constitutional sanction and support which it was thought such acts would have. Recent judicial interpretations have disclosed a spirit of conservatism with respect to the administration of the law. The courts hold to the *letter* with most marvellous tenacity and almost ignore the *spirit*, especially when it is apprehended that such spirit accords the fullest enjoyment of political and civil rights to the colored people. More than once, the question of the constitutionality of the Civil Rights Acts, has been decided by United States Circuit and District Courts, (the tribunals which have exclusive jurisdiction under said Acts,) and in all cases the decisions have been against the constitutionality of the Acts. The recent decision of a judge in Texas, in a case arising under the Civil Rights Bill, where a lady was excluded from a "ladies car," is sufficient to set the colored people to thinking. The Judge held that the Act of 1875 was an infringement on the rights of the several states. This act declares that all persons "shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of inns &c. subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to citizens of every race and color, regardless of any previous condition of servitude." This reads very nicely; but when we come to look for direct constitutional sanction, we find nothing. The preamble of the bill, to be sure, contains some very high sounding phraseology, such as, our government should recognize "equality of all men before the law" and that it is the "appropriate object of legislation to enact great fundamental principles into law;" but it has no direct support from the Constitution of the United States. It is claimed that the Civil Rights bill is sanctioned by the provision of the 14th. Amendment, but the courts have declared against snch claim. It is quite clear to our mind that the object and effect of the 14th Amendment is to prevent the *State* from making laws which abridge the priviledges or immunities of citizens. It says that "no state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges, or immunities of citizens of the United States." Should any *State*, by any of its authorized agencies institute a system which discriminates against persons on account of color or previous condition, then such agencies and acts are unconstitutional. But in the case where one citizen of a state discriminates against another, the jurisdiction belongs to the State courts and not the Federal Courts and is to be adjudicated upon the provision of the State and not the Federal Constitution. At all events this is what the Courts say. Since the U. S. Courts have gone against us, we must look to the state courts for protection, which protection can be claimed only when statutes have been passed prohibiting Corporations from discriminations on account of color. The colored voters throughout the country should do their uttermost to secure such legislation as will protect them against the wholesale discriminations which are being practiced in almost every State in the Union. Let us hoop up the States Civil Rights boom.

WE understand that there is decided opposition to Mr. Henry Johnson for re-appointment as School trustee. Mr. Johnson has made a vigorous and capable trustee, and if the matter were to depend solely on his record it would be a difficult matter to show cause why he should not succeed himself. But if there is to be a change because of personal reasons, we know of no one who could fill the place as acceptably as Mr. J. D. Baltimore of South Washington. He lives in the same school district, he is a gentleman fully capable of discharging the duties, creditably to himself and to the community. Mr. Baltimore is a mechanical engineer, a graduate of the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia and is honorably devoted to the educational interest of this community. He is an active Sunday School worker, and his appointment would give great satisfaction to the people of South Washington.

RECEIVED from the publishers the Summer number of Ehrich's Fashion Quarterly. This number contains the usual fashion plates, price list of novelties which this famous house has in stock. The Quarterly is only fifty cents a year and a single number is worth a price of a year's subscription.

"AMERICAN manufactures in their relations to agriculture, mining, transportation, internal commerce, foreign commerce customs revenue, banking and labor", is the title of a monograph by Joseph Nimno jr., received and for which we are indebted to Spencer Murray, Jr. the article also appears in the *North American Review* of this month.

THE states one by one are getting in line for the convention. What has become of that Timms' Hall Committee?

THE death of Postmaster Tullock is regretted by all classes. As republican, as public officer, as individual citizen he had endeared himselr to all with whom he had brought in contract.

Now that the convention to electdelegates to the National Convention has been called candidates are as plentiful a blackberries. By common consent there will be no opposition to the election of Mr. Douglass. A. St. A. Smith having taken such a conspicions part in the preliminaries, there will be but little opposition to his election. Who will be the third man? Some say, Mr. J. F. Cook; but THE ADVOCATE calls attention to the fact that if Messers Cook, Smith and Douglass are chosen. There will be a solid delegation of office holders. Some of his friends have named Mr. C. A. Lemar as a candidate. This gentleman holds no office, is an aspirant for one, he is independent, he is reliable, his views are practical. If elected he would conscientiously discharge the duties imposed on him.

THE gentleman who have formed a musical association have begun at the right time, and they have acted equally as sagaciously in securing the service of Dr. Kimball as instructor. Now let them be prompt, regular and persistent, and success awaits them.

ONE of the protesting parties in the Plymouth Church removal matter is out in the *Globe* giving his reasons therefor. We do not think these reasons will help him with the people of this community who knew that the building is not only not such a dilapidated building as he represents, but that it is of such historical value that its location would enhance rather depreciate property where located. Besides if, as he says, there is no place too holy for the erection of a church why should considerations of dollars and cents regulate his action?

THE following extract from Dr. Crummell sermon last Sunday best tells the work he has done in this community:

DR. Purvis and Prof. Greener, we are informed, are candidates for the position now held by Trustee Johnson. Well, who would have thought it? Dr. Purvis sends his children to a white school —no crime—and yet he aspires to represent the colored school interest. Of Prof. Greener's capacity as an educator we have not tbe slightest doubt, yet, how can he claim to be a citizen of South Carolina as his recent article in the *Globe* puts him and at the same time be such an officer of the District of Columbia as presumes residence and citizenship here?

When I first connected myself with this church the number of families connected with it did not exceed 14; now they amount to 120. Then total contributions amounted to $16 a year; now they amount to between one and two thousand dollars. Then communion alms amounted to $10 or $11 a year; now they amount to $55 and $60. Then the communions for years numbered; now they reach to 28. The communicants were 48; now they number 225. Then baptisms for a year were 2 or 3. Now they number from 15 to 28 Then confirmations were infrequent; now they range from 16 to 24. The total baptisms in are 180 and the number confirmed one hundred and fifty. Then the property belonging io this corperation was nothing. They did not own the chapel in which they worshipped. Now they own this church valued at $20,000 and the adjacent lot worth $1500.

OUR SCHOOLS.

BY LE DUKE.

Everybody knows why schools are established, though they pretend at times not to know. But to make a dead sure thing of it, I propose to say why free schools are established. In the first place, they were established for ignorant folks; but if the establishment of schools had have depended upon the ignorant folks, there would not have been any schools. Then too, schools are founded for educated men and trustees. I make a distinction, you see, between an ordinary, educated man and a trustee. A trustee may be an educated man, in which case it is the result of accident rather than natural selection; but trom the point whereon I now stand, I confess that I can't see the education. Educated men are not *generally* trustees, nor are the probabilities of their ever becoming so, even respectable. But to return to the schools. The schools are founded for the purpose of disseminating usefnl knowledge; for the purpose of stimulating the young mind to walk in those paths which lead to usefulness and happiness; to imbue the minds of our young people with a sense of independence and an appreciation of their rightful claims to equality. They are founded to spread the truth that all men are of "one flesh and of one blood" and that no man or set of men will be permitted long to make invidious distinctions. Hence, a school system which does not show equal fairness toward white and colored schools alike, is wanting in the elements necessary to the fulfillment of the ends for which seperate school were founded. For instance, our school system has been run in so loose a manner, that $300,000 belonging to the colored schools have been filched from them by the whites and that too, under the very noses of men who claim to be competent to properly handle school affairs. Now I have not anything to say concerning the trustees of schools, personally, or even officially, exceptin a most friendly manner. Belonging to that sex whom men call weak, I cannot consistently abuse the weak. The present trustees have done very nice things. They have succeeded in assisting the teachers to get up two or three concerts and have officated in many concerns, in like which, the white trustees would not humiliate themselves to meddle. Then too, the recent final examinations and exercises disclosed a boldness on the part of our trustees which far eclipse the white, in real merit. A certain trustee actually represented that the "colored high schools could not compete with the white." He did not stop to explain that, had the colored trustees all along claimed and insisted upon what rightfully belonged to them, they would have a High Sehool, well equipped and capable of sending out pupils equal, if not snperior to the whites. It might be claimed that, had the money been kept within its proper sphere, there would even then have been nothing for the High School; but if $300,000 can be *withheld*, the laxity of administration would have permitted the transfer of a reasonable sum for a most landable purpose, without even a murmer from the whites. Concerning the propriety of competing for scholarship, our trustees deem it mere folly. Why folly, pray? What is the reason that there are no male scholars in the higher grades of our schools? It is because there are no inducements held outto them. There is nothing to stimulate their ambitions to advance. Everyihing seems to be against them. The schools are closed against them. The avenues of trade are blocked up by the prejudices of Unions and, on the whole the "schoolboy's life is not a happy one;" for it offers no promises. Now Le Duke claims that it is the duty of the trustees to insist upon having these competative examinations for scholarship or anythingelse that the people may offer on behalf of the public; and that if the high school, or any other department has not the facilities equal to those of the whites, it is their duty to see that they are fully provided. Fie upon a set of trustees who can not demand or plead for the just claims of the patron. A trustee said, confidentially, that he knew, long before the examination, which white boy would receive one of the scholarships. Confidentially, indeed! And what is the reason why the colored people should not have been told of this practice? For my part, I think that a change in the administration of schools is necessary and imperative and the people will hail the day when the proper change or reforms will be made. If our trustees would think before they speak and act upon what they know, Le Duke and the whole town would be better off.

On Thirty Days' Trial.

The Voltaic Belt Co., Marshall, Mich., will send Dr. Dye's Celebrated Electro-Voltaic Belts and Electric Appliances on trial for thirty days to men (young or old) who are afflicted with nervous debility, lost vitality and kindred troubles, guaranteeing speedy and complete restoration of health and manly vigor. Address as above. N. B.—No risk is incurred, as thirty days' trial is allowed.

Why a Convention.

MR. EDITOR:—Your paper received and its contents read with great pleasure and, indeed I am pleased to know that Mr. Douglass and others are striving hard to have the preposed Colored National Convention go on for it is a very high right that we as American Citizens have to assemble ourselves togother in a convention, and talk and discuss the rights of the colored man and the relation he sustains to his country, Are there colored men, that is so unjust to themselves as to say that we do not have tais right, and ask us to cast our note without considering the best interest of the colored race. Shall we not have a change to agree or disagree as to candidates, or shall we cast or our vote that series carrieconvictionto the to our best interest or shall we come out as one and as American citizens and say that we indorse that which is right and to the best interest of the government? But it is absurd for colored men to say that there cannot be anything obtained for the colored man by having a National Colored Convention. We can come out and show our independence, and show that we know what is justly ours, and we must demand it, and say to both parties that we demand representation in proportion to our strength and interest, and if we don't get it then let us be like the man that met the bear; he prayed to the Lord to help him whip the bear, and said to the Lory, if you won't help me don't help the bear, But lie still and keep dark, and you will see one of the infurnellest fights you ever seen in this country before. And as it has been truthfully said by a colored gentleman that we have been loyal to our country, loyal in the most perilous times of our country; loyal to the shedding of our blood for our liberty add the protection of our country, and all that we have paid or it, and have paid for it dearly, therefore we owe no man or party anything but friendship. If the colored man does not begin to act and think for himself and demand his rights as other American citizens, and act from a right standpoint, and a higher and a grander and a nobler standpoint than he has ever before acted from, he will soon be lost in the fog.

J. E. MORRIS.

VAN WERT, Ohio, June 15, 1883.

Decline of Man.

Nervous Weakness, Dyspepsia, Impotence, Sexual Debility, cured by "Wells' Health Renewer." $1.

INDIVIDUAL GROWTH IN FREE GOVERNMENTS.

BY E J WARING.

The accumulated experience of men has proven that the atmosphere of republican institution is most conducive to the highest development of human character and the most thorough utilization of the varied talents and capability of the individual, no matter what his natural sphere is in life. Consequential to the manners customs of the monarchies and despotic states of the world, now rapidly becoming effete, a man or woman at or by birth is placed upon a social and political bed of the Procrustean type. Many succeeded in turning over, and a limited few like Goethe, Milton, Shakespeare, Cromwell and other sons of genius rise and leave it, but the status of the masses remains unchanged. In those kingly governments, social and political barriers and lines of demarcation, blood and caste, all combine so to circumscribe an individual within the sphere of which his birth makes him a denizen, that no human or divine power can enable him to alter his social and political level and stratum, excepting the isolated instances when revolution disturbs the tranquility and normal condition of affairs.

But in a republican government how different. There, often a temporary and primary advantage is conferred upon an individual, through the agency of birth and nurture amid auspicious surroundings guaranteed by wealth and social prestige and influence. And in many cases the individual is able to retain the advantage thus bestowed. But as nature in her various aspects and moods delights in strong contrarietics, so in the social drama it is often seen that the man or woman born in social power and affluence loses his patrician estate and one of God's noblemen from the plebian masses assumes the state of republican splendor formerly enjoyed by the other.

Like the tumultuous and tossing ocean, a republican mass of humanity is disturbed to its most remote depths and commensurate with human excellence is purified; and during the constant commotion, attrition, and fierce struggle for advantage and supremacy, numberless ar the instances when natural talents and faculties, having unrestricted sway, prove superior to artificial advantages conferred by wealth and social momentum, and a Lincoln comes in glorious triumph from obscurity and poverty to liberate a race, and perish vicariously on the altar of human freedom; a Grant leaves the tanyard and, after enrolling his name on the pages of martial history with those of Hannibal, Alexandr and Napoleon, becomes the uncrowned king and idolized civilian of our republic; and a Garfield leaves the tow-path to develop into the scholarly statesman, philosophical orator and die a martyr-President enthroned in his people's hearts.

In a republic or representative democracy there is no eminence to which genius and the suffrage of the people may not elevate a man, and while it is conceded that unworthy men are often borne into places of conspicuity, influence and sacredness, yet the popular mind and heart will not always be deceived, and if he be a political demegogue, an ecclesiastical impostor, a swindler in commercial transaction, or a literary charlatan, sooner, or later he must unmask, and flee amid a storm of universal scorn and indignation.

In a republic, a man of prominence is in a greater or less degree the reflex and crystallization of the people and times that produced him, so that in general, if unworthy men attain eminence, in a free government, the people must not lament, for like produces and assimilates with like in a moral, social intellectual, and political, as well as in a physical sense. The possibilities in a free government like America cannot be too highly estimated; the individual cannot aspire too high; and although like the fallen Wolsey, he had but his "cloak and his integrity to Heaven," he may be borne by his natural capabilities and attainments to any heights of goodness and greatness of character and achievement, unhampered by barriers of caste and prejudice arising be cause he be born with humble heritage as his lot.

Well's "Rough on Corns."

Ask for Wells' "Rough on Corns." 15c. Quick, complete, permanent cure, Corns, warts, bunions.

The second military pic-nic and open air concert by Company "A". Capital City Guard, will be given at Van-Ness Park, Monday, July 2, 1883.

Committee of arrangements: Lieut. John H. Shepherd, Chairman, Sergt. Geo. A. Johnson, Privates Thos. A. James, J. D. Cleveland, Corporal Alex. Barnard, Peyton Winfield, Louis H. Davis, Chas H. Lee, Corporal John H. Campbell, Joseph Turner, James E. Skinner.

Music by Professor Krause's Orchestra

The Committee takes pleasure in announcing that the Orchestra will be the largest and the Music the best that this Company has ever before provided for the entertainment of their Friends

Admission Twenty Five Cents.

☞Ice Cream.—Families, Pic-nics, etc. supplied with pure Ice Cream and Confections, in quantities to suit at reasonable prices. Special inducements offered to FOURTH OF JULY parties. Order promptly filled at ANALOSTAN ICE CREAM MANUFACTORY, n. w. cor. 16th and P Streets n. w.

Pynn White and Co.

THE GENTLEMAN WINS.—If you speak the right word at the right time; if you are careful to leave people with a good impression; if you do not trespass upon the rights of others as well as yourself; if you do not forget the courtesies which belong to your position, you are quite sure to accomplish much in life which others with equal ability fail to. This is where the race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong. It is where you make people feel that you are unselfish and honorable and truthful and sincere. This is what society is looking for in men, and it is astonishing how much men are able to win self-respect and success and usefulness who possess these qualities of good breeding. It is almost the turning-point of success in practical life.

How to measure grain on the floor: Make the pile in the form of a pyramid or cone and multiply the area of the base by one-third the height. To find the area of the base, multiply the square of its diameter by the decimal .7854. Example—A conical pile of grain is 8 feet in diameter and 4 feet high, how many bushels does it contain? Solution—The square of 8 is 64, and 64 times .7854 times 4-3 equals 83.776, the number of cubic feet. Therefore, 83.776 times 4-5 equals 67.02 bushels.

Since the fight between the Monitor and the Merrimac, the powder charges of great guns have grown from 15 pounds to between 400 and 500 pounds, and the new guns to be built at Elswick for the Italia and Lepanto are to be used with a charge of powder 950 pounds! At first the powder charges of our 20-ton 15-inch guns were 35 pounds. They were then put up to 50 pounds, and when they were raised to 100 pounds of mammoth grain powder, after the war, the army and navy men trembled with anxiety. But now the 28-ton 12½-inch Woolwich rifles, of which the Thunderer's guns were examples, use 150 pounds of powder, and the 35-ton 11-inch Armstrong guns made at Elswick for the Chinese navy use the charge of 235 pounds.

A current event—The Gulf Stream.

Madam, never bang a door, if you adore a bang.

Beer is said to be going up, but the general impression has been that it was going down.

There was a big bustle in the Custom House last week when fifty-seven yards of lace were found on the person of Mrs. B.

The son of a coffee and spice dealer was asked at school where coffee came from, and the reply was: "Father said I mustn't tell, and he'll lick me if I do."

Youth: "Yes, it is curious I have no beard; I can't think who I take after—my grandfather had a splendid one." Hair cutter: "Oh! perhaps you take after your grandmother."

An exchange refers to the language of the postage stamp. But we do not think the postage stamp has any language that expresses anything. If it had we believe it would holler "enough" when it is licked.

It was out in one of the western states that he started a paper and called it "The Barrel," because a barrel once set in motion is very easy to keep rolling. But the people decided they didn't want any barrel organ in those parts, and The Barrel succumbed to circumstances.

"Is the doctor in?" asked an anxious-looking young man. "No, sir," replied the person addressed, "but then you can leave an order on the slate. Is it a very urgent case?" "Well, yes," the young man said, "rather urgent, I think. Just as I started away from home my youngest brother was falling out of a second story window."

"Is it becoming to me?" asked she, as she paraded, in the costume of one hundred years ago, before the man who is not her lord and master, but is her husband. "Yes, my dear," said he, meekly. "Don't you wish I could dress this way all the time?" she asked. "No, my dear," he answered; "but I wish you had lived when that was the style."

A St. Louis girl forwarded the following to her young man: "Deer Will,—Doant kum to see me eny more for a whial eny way. Fauther has got awfully skeered about burglars, and sits up every nite till late with a doubled-barrelled shotgun watching the back-yard. He put more a pound of lead into Brown's newfoundland dog, which was cummin over the fens after a bone last nite."

Little Kate B., who is of an inquiring turn of mind, was watching her father cover the fire with ashes one night last winter. She looked at him intently a few minutes, and then asked why he did it; to which he jokingly replied: "To stop the rapid combustion." A short time after she ran to tell her mamma what she had seen, and ended by saying, "The fire was covered up to keep the rabbit from busting."

Maine's Liquor Law.

Maine has at length got a liquor law to evade which will require the utmost ingenuity of the wine sellers and the wine bibbers. Thus far a loophole of some sort has always been found in the statutes framed on the subject. The interested classes have jumped through them as easy as an accomplished circus rider takes a flying leap through a paper hoop. When the ordinary liquor saloon was compelled to put up its shutters, the private club came into existence, and when payment for liquor was prohibited, the dispenser of the beverage found a way of giving it away and at the same time reaping the usual profit. Under the new law, if the sober solons of the state are not very much mistaken, all these tricks and evasions will come to naught. Club houses and all other similar contrivances are to be declared nuisances and suppressed upon sight. Giving liquor away is to be remorselessly punished. A person found intoxicated, either on the streets or in his own house, shall be sent to jail for thirty days; if he undertakes to do the thing a second time he will be given a vacation and an opportunity to reform for a term three times as long. Maine seems to be in earnest this time.

Boys' Smoking.

ITS EFFECT UPON THEM AS ASCERTAINED BY LEADING PHYSICIANS.

When boys are advised not to smoke on hygienic grounds they laugh at the advice, and speak of its givers as old fogies. But careful experiments, lately made by a physician of repute, prove that the practice is very injurious. He took for his purpose thirty-eight boys, from 9 to 15, who had been in the habit of smoking, and examined them closely. In twenty-seven he found obvious hurtful effects; twenty-two having various disorders of the circulation and digestion, palpitation of the heart, and more or less craving for strong drink; twelve of the boys were frequently troubled with bleeding at the nose; ten had disturbed sleep; twelve had slight ulceration of the mucous membrane of the mouth, which disappeared after discontinuation of tobacco for ten or twelve days. The physician treated them all for weakness and nervousness, though with little avail, until they had relinquished smoking, when health and strength were speedily restored. Even if it be granted that smoking is not harmful to adults, there is no doubt of its harmfulness to the young. Dr. Ranking, Dr. Richardson, and others, who have made a special study of the subject, all agree in declaring that it causes in them impairment of growth, premature virility, and physical degradation. One of the worst effects is the provocation of an appetite for liquor, which, indeed, is not confined to the young, but which grown persons are better able to manage. Where boys drink to excess, they are almost invariably smokers, and it is very rare to find a man overfond of spirits who is not addicted to tobacco. Men who want to give up drinking usually have to give up smoking at the same time; for they say that a cigar or a pipe generally excites a desire for liquor very hard to control.

The first American patent for an invention was issued to Samuel Hopkins, at New York, July 31st, 1790, for an improved process of making potash and pearlash. The present possessor is E. T. Hale, of Columbus, Ohio. It is written on a piece of parchment in a round, old-fashioned hand, signed by George Washington, and certified by Edward Randolph, Attorney General, as being conformable to the act of congress to promote the useful arts, and its delivery to the grantee is certified by Thos. Jefferson, with the seal of the United States.

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The People's Advocate.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 1883.

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Washington..... { G. B. Anderson.
" ..... { G. W. Renfro.
New Bedford, Mass..... Wm. H. Carney.

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LOCAL.

☞Local communications and &c., should reach this office not later than Thursday morning; advertisements not later than Wednesday noon.

☞When ever any of our Subscribers do not receive the paper promptly please promptly notify us in all cases, by postal card.

—A few summer boarders willbe taken by Mrs. Rosa Gaskins at Mason's Hill, 8 miles from Washington. A beautiful view of the Capitol. Address at Linconia, Fairfax Co., Va.

—Schools closed.

—Vacation has begun.

—No "corner" in boquets.

—Dressmakers have a rest.

—Our school marms leave by every train for Atlantic City, Philadelphia, Cape May Silcott, Harper's Ferry &c.

—John F. Cook, Stevens and the Miner Buildings closed Tuesday.

—Sumner and Garnet on Wednesday.

—During ten years of coeducation among the colored schools, not a case of obscenity arising therefrom has been substantiated.

—The Children's Day exercises at Union Bethel Sunday were well attended morning and night. In the morning Rev. J. A. Handy, the pastor, preached a sermon entitled "Childhood Exalted." At night, the Plymouth Congregational Sunday School were present by invitation. After preliminary remarks by the pastor, remarks on the utility and benefits of Children's Day were made by J. W. Cromwell of the ADVOCATE, an essay by Miss Geary on the meaning of Our Father's Church, and an address by Mr. J. C. Beckett on the new Sunday School Union. The addresses and essays were interpersed with songs, first by Union Bethel S S. under the leadership of its assistant Chorister and by Plymouth School Mr. P. H. Simmons Chorister. Mr. Shorter closed, expressing his gratification at the presence of the Plymouth School in such a healthy condition. The benediction was pronounced by Rev. Handy. The collection realized was $ 15 .82.

—The Strawberry Festival at the 15th St. Presbyterian Church Monday was very well attended and a success in every essential.

—Mr, H. C. Tyson has been called homeward to North Carolina by reason of illness in his family.

—Mr. J. W. Ewing has been quite ill, btt is rather better now.

—The entertainments given by the Men's Guild of St. Lukes Church at the Kinman Mansion Grounds cor. 15th. and P, Sts. were well patronized. The soft subdued light from the Chinese lanterns, the rustic seats and gardeh walks, the plesant ladies in waiting, the fine music united to make these entertrinments the most agreeable of the season.

—The Sparta Club gave a lawnparty at the Van Ness Park on the 14th inst. A pleasant company assembled, there was no embarrassment caused by the presence of objectionable parties. Dancing was kept up to a late hour.

—Miss Alice A Sizemore was the only graduate of the State Normal branch school, at Pine Bluff Ark.

—W. M. Artrell of Key West, Fla. pessed through our city this week, *enroute* homeward from Nova Scotia where he has been in the interest of the Good Templars.

—Dr. Crummell has got out a licensed edition two thousand copies, of his pamphlet in reply to Dr. Tucker. It is meeting with a sale far and wide and receiving favorable comments in all quarters, in the South as well as in the North.

—Col. Buckne H. Payne who over the *nomdeplume* of "Ariel" published a book several years ago to prove that the Negro was an inferior being and without a soul, recently died in the poor house in Davidson Co. Tenn.

—The Douglass Literary Association has been organized under favorable auspices at Charleston, S. C,

—A new musical society (male,) has been organized with E. J. Waring, President and Frank A. Hyman Secy.

—A musical and literary concert under the auspices of the choir of the Trinity Independent Methodist Church was given at Lincoln Mission Tuesday night, Miss Katie Johnson and Mr. Moses M. Foskey were pianists. Among the soloists were Mr Thomas Brewer, Misses Clara Des Verney, Mesdames Anna M. Foskey and Lucy Bruce, and recitations were delivered by Edward Bruce. The program announced a gold watch to be presented to the lady or gentleman receiving the highest number of votes, and wax confectionery beautifully framed, to the person selling the largest number of tickets over two hundred

—Dr. Crummell, having completed ten years of service as rector of St. Mary's Chapel and St. Luke Church, delivered a special sermon last Sunday relative to the growth of this work in this period. An extract which states briefly this growth and development will be found elsewhere.

—The Grand Lodge F. A. A. M. of the District of Columbia, with its subordinate Lodges will celebrate S. John's Day on the 25th, instant. There will be a parade and a grand picnic in the evening at Ricks Park. The committee has made all necessary arrangements to make the affair a pleasant one.

—Miss A. L. Tilghman left the City this week on a tour for her health.

—The Camp Fire of the O. P. Morton Post, at Gales Woods last Monday was a success.

—The Sixth Division gave a Musical and Literary entertainment at the school in Hillsdale Tuesday night. Fully a hundred voices were represented in the Chorus.

—The Second Quartely review of the Bethlehem Baptist Sunday School will be held at their church on Sunday June 24th 1883, at 3 O'clock P. M.. The Zion Baptist and other Schools have been invited. Mr. Frederick Douglass Jr., Rev. Wm H. Scott and W. J. Howard Esq. and others have been invited to address the meeting.

VACATION.

BY ARGUS.

Last year, Le Duke had the exquisite pleasure of giving some very good advice to our school teachers, on the subject of economy. Like all self constituted advisers, that literary hermaphrodite, (for certainly the gender of the above named prodigy has not as yet been definitely determined,) met with few or no plaudits and was frequently confronted with the painful realization that, he had been attending to other people's business without their consent. I suppose, however, that Le Duke thought he was doing a good turn and so I will be more mild but equally as earnest as he.

It is invigorating to see the extensive preparation being made by the teachers, looking to the fashionable enjoyment of the summer vacation. Cape May, Atlantic City and other gay resorts, even down to war-blasted Harper's Ferry, will be visited by our *wealthy* teachers. Tired of the turmoil of the past few months, like the caged bird, they look with joy for the day when they may be liberated from their prison-houses. The few pennies they have been sensible enough to hoard up during the past few months will be "gathered in" to meet the demands of the 60 days now at hand. One school-teacher was heard to remark that she had so many old Atlantic City dresses that indeed she could not put any money in banks. Of course she will have a gloriously delightful time, at the *sea-side* and will return home with the sweet consolation that she might have had as nice a time on half the money. And O! wont the pupils get it, when she goes to school! She will be disgusted with her own want of good judgement and "put out" because the urchins are not little angels; she will foam and rant and scold and do every thing that is disagreeable to herself and those around her. Then, after the first pangs of remorse are past and when the dear teacher settles down to business and, with an air of a philosopher, begins to tell the pupils that life is short: that time is money and that to be useful to his kind, a boy must not fail to take advantage of every opportunity that is afforded for self-improvement; that to squander money is as enervating to the morals as to the physical being and as disreputable as the practices of a miser. Our late prodigal teachers will preach economy from all its various phases (save one;) but the little urchin, who reads in the features of the teacher the evidence of a positive contradiction to all she says, will make up his mind that if the *teacher*, his just and proper criterian can squander money and time, certainly *he* can. And so the teachings of the moralist-teacher fall like water on a duck's back.

It is not a pleasant thought to recall that, of all the teachers who might, with very little privation, be seen at the banks, depositing a portion of their earnings, Argus has seen but one teacher. She is as regular as clock-work. Immediately upon receiving her money, she can be seen taking her place in the line at the bank. Of the dozens of teachers in line, she is the only colored person. She is a vigorous and charming lady and every feature tells of a strong character. She is said to be one of the most cultured ladies in the town and her excellence as a teacher is universally admitted. Her vacation, I learn, she spends pleasantly and profitably, by visiting some modest resort and preparing herself for the duties of the following year. Certainly it is very unfortunate that our teachers *must* set such a bad example before the children. It is distressing to think that teachers, who are set up, and who set themselves up, as criterians for the younger people of our city, should have so little regard for the influences which their extravagance and what not are exerting upon our young girls and boys It is unfortunate that, because our teachers represent, to a very considerable degree, the culture and refinement of our people, they must *assume* to possess the wealth which will justify such large and pauperizing expenditurs. If our teachers would practice economy as well as preach it; if they would have *real* regard for the interests of the pupil and themselves they would not fill their saratogas with such costly "purple and fine linen" but would modestly retire to some quiet resort, there to recuperate mentally and physically.

INJUSTICE TO THE NEGRO RACE

FALSIFYING THEIR RECORD.

When we apply as a test the duty of the historian in chronicling the acts of a people, more especially in war times, when the chronicler has been an eye-witness to the part taken by them, his portraiture becomes a subject of great criticism and is criticised commendably for its impartiality and truthfulness, or, critically condemned for its variance from those dutiful contingences. In such a light succeeding generations, no less than the survivors of the great struggle for Union and Freedom, will read the record made by the Negro troops whose valor helped save the Union and secured Freedom to our common countrymen. But all writers are not historians, nor are all historians prompted by an unselfish motive of writing history.

This is obviously apparent to the readers of many of the histories of the late war written by soldiers and Northern writers whose ostensible aim, seems to be, to establish their pet theory of the cause of the war and to detract, from some general, the merit won for sagacity and loyality. We are reminded that Josephus wrote so as to please his superiors; that King James' sensibilities were consulted by the translators of the Holy Bible; and when those books are read they are to be read with this in recollection. So too are the histories of the war as relating to Negro troops to be read, for they are not only meagerly spoken of, but their valor, dash and sacrifice belitted, and in many of them grossly misrepresented, and the part which they took in many battles falsified.

In many instance the southern writers have chronicled more truthfully, the deeds and acheivements of the Negro troops than the northern writers have.

Of the military men who have written concerning the war, none perhaps has so misrepresented the Negro troops as General Humphreys in his Campaigns of 1864-65. It will make the blood run cold of any one of the gallant old Ninth Corps to read the statement made by General Humphreys regarding the action of the Negro troops at the battle of the Crater. The student of the history of the conflict will shudder with disgust when he compares the facts in the case as ascertained by the Court of Inquiry ordered by the government and the very wild statements highly colored as made by this gallant fighter.

The pith of his disertation is fully in keeping with the statement made by a rebel in the Richmond Whig: That the Negro troops were drunk when they made the effort to capture Petersburg.

The heroic effort of the Negro troops in this memorable engagement led Genl. Grant to say, before the court, that had the Negro troops been permitted to take the lead, as Burnside intended they should but which Mead prevented, Petersburg would have been captured; but General Humphreys says that "when Weisigers Brigade charged upon the Second colored brigade which had gained the enemy's works, they broke and fell back in confusion; the whole division rising from the ground and running in wild disorder back to our intrenchments" thereby disorering the white troops of Potter and Turner's brigades. From what source this information is obtained the writer does not say and it is in direct conflict with the history of the Ninth Corps and with General Mahone's report.

Headly who attributes to the Negro troops, the starving of the Union soldiers by the rebels and as having exasperated the Southerners has not the hardihood to accuse them of wilful cowardice at the *Mine*.

It is true that the Negro troops were not a favorite organization with the Army of the Potomac but it is not to be supposed that at this latter day a general of retained the same opinion as that of '64, before the Negro troops had rendered such important service to his command as it did afterwards.

Swinton was forced to change his opinion, and we can only hope ere long that some one of the Negro writers may place before the people a truthful and full statement of the part taken by the Negro in the conflict and thus show the meagerness and falsity of the statements made by the military historians regarding the Negro soldiers.

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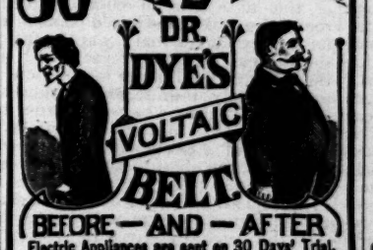

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18-15-14.

He sat and gazed with a placid mein
And a cheerful and confident smile
On the little square box with the "gem fifteen,"
And he said he'd bet his pile

That he could figure it out right there;
So he jumbled the blocks about,
And then he remarked: "It's simple, I swear,
And I reckon I'll work it out."

So he tackled it sharp for an hour or more,
And his hands he ran through his hair,
And he jumped right up and fearfully swore,
(And his eyes had a maniac's glare,)

That he'd be dashed if the dash, dashed fool
That invented this game was here,
He'd smash his dash, dash, dash-ed skull
And chaw off the end of his ear.

But after another hot hour had flown,
The bead drops down 'gan to roll,
And he raved in a way, the people all say
Struck terror to each watching soul.

For—thirteen—fifteen—fourteen—alas
Were all he got for his pains,
So he frantically swallowed of poison a glass,
And with a pistol he blowed out his brains.

The Bow.

From Hill's Manual of Social and Business Forms.

Acquaintances are usually entitled to a bow. It is poor policy to refuse recognition because of a trifling difference between parties.

The young lady should show a similar deference to an elderly lady, or to one in superior position, that a gentleman does to a lady.

A gentlemam who may be smoking when he meets a lady, should in bowing remove the cigar from his mouth and from her presence.

When bowing to ladies, it is etiquette for the gentleman to raise his hat from his head, and slightly incline his body. The bow should not be a mere nod.

A bow or graceful inclination should be made by ladies when recognizing their acquaintances of the opposite sex. It is the privilege of the lady to bow first.

A gentleman on horseback should grasp whip and reins in his left hand, and raise his hat with his right, when saluting a lady. The lady salutes by bowing slightly.

To a casual acquaintance you may bow without speaking; but to those with whom you are well acquainted, greater cordiality is due. A bow should always be returned; even to an enemy it is courtesy to return the recognition.

When a gentleman, accompanied by a friend, meets a lady on the street, it is courtesy, in the salutation, for the gentleman's friend to bow slightly to the lady also, as a compliment to his companion, even though unacquainted with the lady.

On meeting a party, some of whom you are intimately acquainted with, and the others but little, the salutation should be made as nearly equal as possible. A slight recognition of some, and a great demonstration of pleasure toward others, is a violation of etiquette.

A gentleman should return a bow made him upon the street, even if the one making the same is not recognized. The person may possibly be a forgotten acquaintance; but even if a mistake has been made, there will be less embarrassment if the bow is returned.

A gentleman should not bow from a window to a lady on the street, though he may bow slightly from the street upon being recognized by a lady in a window. Such recognition should, however, generally be avoided, as gossip is likely to attach undue importance to it when seen by others.

A warm cordiality of manner, and a general recognition of acquaintances, without undue familiarity, is the means of diffusing much happiness, as well as genial and friendly feeling. In thinly settled localities, the habit of bowing to every one you meet is an excellent one, evincing as it does kindness of feeling toward all.

When meeting a lady who is a stranger, in a hallway, upon a staircase, or in close proximity elsewhere, courtesy demands a bow from the gentleman. In passing up a stairway, the lady will pause at the foot and allow the gentleman to go first; and at the head of the stairway he should bow, pause, and allow her to precede him in the descent.

Extirpating the Wild Carrot.

D. M., writing from Jamesville, New York, to the *Country Gentlemen*, gives his experience with wild carrots as follows:

"Thistles, quack or couch grass and daises are not to be compared to it when once it gets possession of the ground. It kills out all grass, and the seeds are so light that they are wafted by the wind in every direction. About eight years ago a few plants made their appearance in front of my premises, and soon some appeared in adjoining fields. They spread so rapidly that made up my mind to commence war upon them immediately. After a heavy rain I pulled them up by the roots. In two or three weeks I had a new crop to pull, but as fast as any blossomed I pulled them. The second year they appeared about as thick as the first, but now, after six or eight years' labor, I can pull all on my farm in one hour. But the question may be asked why I have not extirpated them? It is because my neighbors allow some plants to ripen on adjoining land, and the wind brings the seed upon mine. It is very annoying for any one who has taken pains to rid his premises of weeds to find foul seeds or thistles, carrots and daises brought upon his premises by winds. I wish that the same law that compels farmers to take care of unruly animals could be enforced in regard to foul weeds. Large fields and fewer cross fences will save a good many hours' labor in cutting bushes and weeds. I think the time is coming in our Eastern States when the arable land will be in one field and the pasture land in another."

Tuberculosis.

Prof. Otto Bollinger, of Munich University, joins the ranks of those who believe that tuberculosis is imparted to human beings by milk from diseased cows. Repeated experiments convince him that the decided contagious influence of the milk cannot be removed, even by boiling; and that while the tuberculosis of man is not identical with that of the cow, it is similar. He urges the necessity for rigid measures to exclude distempered cattle from dairies. This has been done by the associated dairy recently established at Munich. All the cows are subject to the closest medical supervision; and at the slightest indication of disease they are removed. This position is, however, stoutly disputed by many veterinary authorities of wide repute; and it is singular, if this theory be true, that half of mankind are not troubled with unsound lungs. The subject is one of the gravest importance; and, while the doctors are disputing, milk producers and milk consumers alike can hardly be too careful as to the quality of milk consumed.

Treatment of the Insane.

In the *International Review*, Dr. William A. Hammond has an important paper on "The Treatment of Insane." He says we need not look to the last century for instances in which the insane were believed to be possessed of devils. Coercion—in the forms of starvation, flagellation or confinement—was thought to be the only means of exorcising these devils and of restoring the mind to its normal condition. But should all these means of coercion fail, it was held that the evil spirit would let go its grip immediately upon the arrival of a lunatic in another world. So the death of a lunatic was supposed to be preferable to his recovery.

This antiquated system of coercion, Dr. Hammond declares, is still in existence. He gives a number of instances connected with the Longview Asylum in Ohio and the Kalamazoo Asylum in Michigan. The Onondago Asylum is also criticized for its damp dungeons and for its inhuman punishments. Blackwell's Island and the "Utica crib" also claim their share of attention.

Dr. Hammond advises that all such means of mechanical restraint should be abolished. In retaining them, he avers that we are behind the rest of the world. He contrasts the liberty allowed in the Belgian colony for the insane at Ghoel, and the French establishment of St. James, as evidence that release from restraint is not only parcticable but judicious. Dr. Hammond pleads that the insane should be allowed to write to their friends, and all the mysteries which surround the modern asylum should be cleared away by the management being placed in the hands of visiting and consulting physicians and surgeons who keep posted in the new science of neurology, and are not entirely engrossed in wire pulling to retain their places.

Why He Groaned.

In this county, no matter where, reside two lawyers, no matter whom. Suffice it to say those lawyers are young, genial, and deep in legal lore, and as such are occasionally sought after in criminal cases of small import. A very short time ago, no matter when, professional duties called them before a certain justice of the peace in the county. One was to prosecute and the other defend. The case was conducted with skill and ability, and the court, unaccustomed to such, beamed with deep admiration upon the young lawyers, and was happy. The time arrived for the prosecuting attorney to deliver his speech, and he waxed eloquent on the subject of carrying concealed weapons, and made a moving appeal in the name of the law that visibly affected the court muchly, who mentally vowed vengence against the culprit. All at once, however, and for some unaccountable cause his eloquence suddenly ceased. His left leg seemed to be troubling him beyond measure, and he affectionately grasped it with both hands and groaned dismally as he cast an appealing look towards the door, as if he desired above all earthly things to be on the outside. All at once the mystery was cleared up. An innocent revolver glided out of the pants onto the floor. The young attorney was incontinently floored, and the court, who had been revolving in his mind the propriety of sending for all the doctors in the neighborhood, was astonished—wiped his eyes and ahem'd omniously. The young attorney was unable to offer any excuse, and the court promptly fined him $25 and costs, and hereafter he will be more careful.—*Fremont* (Iowa) *Democrat.*

An Indian Animal Charmer.

Strange stories reach us from India of the feats performed by a native mesmerizer named Buni, whose magnetic power would appear to be found quite irresistible by the lower animals, upon which he usually exerts it. He gives seances to which the public are invited to bring all manner of ferocious and untamable wild beasts, and, like the "Ancient Mariner," holds them with his glittering eye. In a few minutes they subside into a condition of cataleptic stillness, from which they can only be revived by certain "passes" which he solemnly executes with his right hand. An account of one of these seances states that a snake in a state of violent irritation was brought to Buni by a menagerie proprietor, inclosed in a wooden cage. When deposited on the platform it was writhing and hissing fiercely. Buni bent over the cage and fixed his eye upon its occupant, gently waving his hand over the serpent's restless head. In less than a minute the serpent stretched itself out, stiffened, and lay apparently dead. Buni took it up and thrust several needles into its body, but it gave no signs of life. A few "passes" then restored it to its former activity. Subsequently a savage dog, held in a leash by its owner, was brought in, and, at Buni's command, let loose upon him. As it was rushing toward him, bristling with fury he raised his hand and in a second the fierce brute dropped upon its belly, as though stricken by lightning. It seemed absolutely paralyzed by some unknown agency, and was unable to move a muscle until released from the magnetizer's spell by a majestic wave of the hand.—*London Telegraph.*

Who does not see that Gallileo, Descartes, Newton, Lavoisier, and Laplace, have changed the foundation of human thought in modifying totally the idea of the universe and its laws, substituting for the infantile imaginings of non-scientific ages the notion of an eternal order, in which caprice and will have no thought? Have they diminished the universe as some think? For my part I think the contrary. The skies as we see them are far superior to that solid vault spangled with shining dots and upborne some leagues above us by pillars which contented the simpler ages. I do not much regret the little spirits that had wont to guide the planets in their orbits; gravitation does the work much better, and if at times I have a sad remembrance of the nine angelic choirs wheeling round the orbs of the seven planets and for the crystal sea that lay at the feet of the Eternal, I console myself with the thought that the infinite into which we look is really infinite, and a thousand times more sublime to eyes of true contemplation than all the azure circles of Angelico of Fiseole. M. Thiers rarely allowed a fine night to pass without gazing upon that boundless sea. "It is my mass," he said. In how far do the chemist's profound views upon the atom surpass the vague notions of matter on which the scholastic philolsophy was fed.—RENAN.

If you were as willing to be as pleasant and as anxious to please in your own house as you are in the company of your neighbors, you would have the happiest home in the world.

Performances with Mouth and Feet.

The following is extracted from the "Diary of John Rous" (Camden Society) p. 84: "Some years since I saw in Holborn, London, near the bridge, an Italian, who with his mouth did lay certain sheets of paper together, one upon another, lengthwise, between the right hand and the left and then he took a needle and pricked it through the one end, and so then the other, so that the paper lay sure. Then he took a short text pen, and dipped it in a standish ink-horn of lead, and therewith wrote *Laus Deo semper*, in a very fair text hand (not written with his hand, but with his mouth;) then with another pen he flourished daintily about these letters in divers forms. He did, with his mouth, also take up a needle and thread, pricking the needle right down, out of which he pulled the thread, and took another by (fitter) and put it into the needle. Then, therewith he took three stitches in the cloth with a linen wheel (prepared with a turner's device for the foot.) He did spin with his mouth. He wrote fair with his left foot. He used a pencil and painted with his mouth. He took a pretty piece, or gun, with his toes, and poured in a paper of powder, pulled out the scouring-stick very nimbly, rammed in the powder, put up the stick, pulled up the cock with his toes; then another short piece, charged (that had a Swedish firelock.) being put in his mouth by another man, he held it forth and discharged it, and forthwith with his toes he discharged the other. He gathered up four or five dice with his foot, and threw them out neatly. His hands were both shrimped and lame."

Reading in the Boston Schools.

The Boston School Committee has devised a plan for lending special attractiveness to the unusually dull half hour devoted to the exercise of reading in the public schools. The regular readers have been supplemented by selected stories from general literature. The primary children, for instance, are regaled with "Jack the Giant-Killer," "Little Red Riding Hood," and other juvenile fictions printed in a pamphlet for school use. The older children have selected tales from the "Arabian Nights," and other entertaining fictions are to be prepared for their delectation. The superintendent claims that the introduction of this new feature has been surprisingly successful. The children, whose every look and act showed how tedious and irksome the reading hour was to them, are now all attention and animation. They are not allowed to read the books out of school hours, and the text is therefore new to them at each lesson. Especially among the poorer children, whose pleasure reading is confined to an occasional dime novel or trashy paper, is the improvement noticeable, and in no better way, considers Superintendent Eliot, can a pure and elevated taste for good reading be implanted.

Narcotism From Nutmegs.

The fact that nutmegs have strong narcotic properties has long been known, but they are in such common use as a favorite condiment used in small quantites that their dangerous nature when taken in large quantity is apt to be overlooked and forgotten, even by those aware of their tendency.

A physician reports, in one of our medical exchanges, a case where a lady patient during his absence was induced by her old woman nurse to take nutmeg tea. One and a half nutmegs were used in making the tea, and the patient drank the whole of the decoction during the day. About 10 o'clock at night she began to get drowsy, and 4 o'clock the next morning she was in a profound stupor. At 10 o'clock the next morning the narcotic effects of the nutmegs began to wear off, and by 4 p. m. she had pretty well recovered. The symptoms were about the same as those produced by opium, and the remedies given were the same.

Nutmegs in the quantity of two or three drachms have been known to produce both stupor and delirium; and dangerous and fatal consequences are said to have followed its free use in Inda. Mace, which is the outside covering of the nutmeg, possesses essentially the same properties.

Suicide in France.

The most recently published figures show that suicide is on the increase in France. Before the German-Franco war the average number of suicices only slightly exceeded five thousand a year, and now they exceed six thousand. The increase in the rate directly after the war was generally noticed, but was not considered extraordinary considering the public and private disasters suffered during the time hostilities lasted, and, indeed, afterward; but now, many years after the war, there are no symptons of a diminution. Dr. Decaisne, who has written at some length on the subject, says that in Paris there are three times as many suicides as in the country; that most of the men who destroy themselves are bachelors; that spring is the time of year when suicides are most frequent, and that death by hanging is more frequently resorted to than any other mode of self destruction, being considered the most expeditious. Some statistics published before the fall of the empire revealed some curious facts. Thus, the yearly number of suicides among men of good education averaged 440; among men who could read and write well, 600; among men who could read, but not spell correctly 1,000; among men who could neither read nor write, 1; among persons of no instruction, 36. Again it was found that more persons in easy circumstances committed the crime than persons without any visible means of subsistence.

The paternal guardian of a well-directed household near Fourth street, solved the puzzle problem, a few nights since, on the first trial. He had hung his coat on its accustomed hook, and had just jacked his left boot, when he heard a sudden report from the front room, and the word "thirteen" pronounced after it. He didn't hold his breath over a second, before he heard the same familiar sound and the word "fourteen" sandwiched as before. He stepped to the door, opened it carefully, till he could get a squint through. Then he saw a gentleman put his mustache on the girl's lip, and he commenced at "thirteen" again, and just as he was prepared to pucker for "fifteen," the old gent put the other boot where it would do the most good, and said "thirteen," and then the chap took a 13, a 15, and a 14 foot jump: but the girl—"Oh, where was she?"

Let's muzzle
The puzzle
Inventor.
Let's take him
And shake him
Instanter.
Let's break
All his bones,
Let's make
What he owns
Of intellect twirl
In perpetual whirl,
As our
Mind power
Is hurt by this mean
Eternal,
Infernal
Gem puzzle machine.

The first American patent for an invention was issued to Samuel Hopkins, at New York, July 31st, 1790, for an improved process of making potash and pearlash. The present possessor is E. T. Hale, of Columbus, Ohio. It is written on a piece of parchment in a round, old-fashioned hand, signed by George Washington, and certified by Edward Randolph, Attorney General, as being conformable to the act of congress to promote the useful arts, and its delivery to the grantee is certified by Thos. Jefferson, with the seal of the United States.

Statistics of divorces in Massachusetts exhibit an extraordinary and alarming increase. Since 1860 no less than 7,283 divorces have been obtained in that model state. Since 1860 the number of yearly divorces have increased in that state from 243 to 600, while the number of marriages have increased only from 12,409 to 12,893. The ratio of divorces to marriages in the state in 1860 was 1 to 21.4. The statistics were prepared by Mr. Carroll B. Wright one of the most careful statisticians in the country. In Vermont the ratio for the last eight or ten years is 1 divorce to 10 marriages; in Rhode Island, 1 to 14; in Connecticut, 1 to 11.

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